

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

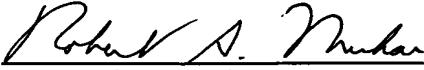
In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, and 9-17, but only objected to claims 5 and 7 (both of which depended from claim 1) and indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. While applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims, in order to further advance the prosecution of the present application, the subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claims 5 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, new independent claim 20 has been added which includes the subject matter of former claims 1 and 7. New dependent claims 21-31 relate to the subject matter of previous dependent claims 2, 4 and 9-17.

Since all matters raised in the Official Action have been met by the instant Amendment, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application consistent with the Examiner's position concerning claims 5 and 7 in the Action.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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Date: June 2, 2004